

November 2, 2012

Weekly Views

GreenPrisons.org and the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) co-hosted the Second National Symposium on Sustainability in Corrections in Plainfield, IN. Correctional practitioners from across the country gathered in Plainfield, IN for the conference to learn about and discuss the utilization of sustainable products and services in the corrections profession. During the conference, Greenprison.org presented IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon with the first-ever Rees-Stalder Award for Sustainability in Corrections in recognition of the Department's many accomplishments in correctional sustainability. The conference concluded with over 50 participants from several states touring the Pendleton Correctional Facility to

learn about the facility's recent greening efforts. Executive Assistant Jack Binion, who oversees the facility's green initiatives, highlighted areas of the facility that have been designated to promote green efforts within the prison. These included compost, recycling, bio mass energy generation and speakers from several companies providing services and products.

Parole agents and staff from all nine Parole Districts participated in the ninth annual Operation Safe Halloween to monitor paroled sex offenders during designated trick or treat hours. Every year, the IDOC Parole Service Division collaborates with local law enforcement agencies within the community to ensure complete compliance and accountability. In Marion County, Re-entry Parole District #1 and Indianapolis Parole District #3, collaborated with Marion County Superior Court Probation, Marion County Community Corrections, United States Probation, and the Marion County Sheriff's Department, in order to monitor and assist offenders with the responsibility to register as a sex offender and to provide assistance and ongoing training with employment opportunities. Parolee attendance results included 115 offenders reported and four offenders failed to report as directed. Additionally, six paroled offenders were arrested on outstanding warrants and new technical or criminal conduct registry violations.

Miami Correctional Facility passed its Re-Accreditation Audit from the American Correctional Association with a 98.2 percent rating. The facility went through its three-year audit and was met with very positive comments by all three auditors. "My first impression turned into my last impression," stated Auditor Barbara Skeen. "Staff appear to be professional and dedicated to the facility and seem to like working here. Your commitment to excellence is obvious." Superintendent Mark Sevier commended the facility staff for its teamwork in getting ready for the audit.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted groups from Kaplan College and Ivy Tech Community College. Criminal Justice students toured the facility and learned about the Department's intake process.

The ADOPT (A Dog on Prison Turf) program at Madison Correctional Facility received a grant for \$1000 from the Spirit's Fund through the Community Foundation of Madison. The donated money will go towards an agility obstacle course for the dog program. The program will offer a day camp for children in the community to come in and work with the dogs on the obstacle course. The Spirit Fund aims to help children become better pet owners.

Wabash Valley Correctional Officer Gerald 'Jerry' Kieffer has retired after 20 years and 5 months of dedicated service! Jerry was among the first class of officers that started at Wabash Valley in 1992, working in several capacities during his career including maintaining the top-notch Tool Room. Superintendent Richard Brown hosted a retirement reception, presenting Officer Kieffer with a Service Recognition Plaque for his dedication and professionalism.

Community Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Atwood, Chaplain Catherine Bowie and Psychiatric Services Specialist Allison Green from the Indiana Women's Prison participated in WTU's IN Focus Program on "Women In Prison." The 30 minute program aired on October 26, 2012. The interviews and panel discussion can be viewed at <http://indianapublicmedia.org/infocus/women-indianas-prison/>

PEN Products staff Doug Evans and Lisa Williams facilitated two interactive Career Path Planning Workshops for 60 offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The offenders and 14 professionals from Centerstone and IDOC staff from Central Office, Miami Correctional Facility and Putnamville Correctional Facility engaged in activities developed to hone job retention, time management and career path planning skills.

Staff Development Emergency Operations (SDEO) and the Correctional Training Institute (CTI) are pleased to report a very successful year two Program Review for CTI. CTI achieved 100% on 12 Mandatory Standards and 100% on 88 Non-Mandatory Standards. Congratulations to all the training staff for their diligence and teamwork in accomplishing such outstanding scores!

Basketball season is up and running at the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC). WCC hosted its first weekend of ball, and a great weekend it was. The WCC team crushed Concordia College on Saturday and triumphed over Purdue North Central on Sunday. The facility basketball team is made up of offender's who display good behavior and programming success. Recreation Coordinator Dan Palombizio, who heads the facility's team, is a former NBA star.

IDOC Central Office held a Fall Football Frenzy Festival at Military Park in downtown Indianapolis to conclude the 2012 State Employees Community Campaign. Staff enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers fresh off the grill and a variety of games and goodies, including a corn-hole tournament, pumpkin bowling, hot apple cider, s'mores on the bonfire, and great prizes. Some members of Exec Staff and Division Directors also took turns in the "waterless" dunk tank to raise money for a great cause.